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ACTION ARA-16
INFO OCT-01 AFS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-02 ICA-15 H-01
NSC-05 NSAE-00 SY-05 HA-05 L-03 PM-09 PA-02
MCT-22 SYE-00 SP-02 SPRS-22 /094 W
-----------220574 0204562 /13

R 012147Z ST 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5383
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN//INTAFF
USMISSION NEW YORK
DIA WASHINGTON DC
UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 6560
E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ES
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE WEEK IN REVIEW AUGUST 22-28
1. SUMMARY. THE CONTINUING VIOLENCE IN EL SALVADOR WAS MARKED BY AN UPSURGE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED DURING THE WEEK IN QUESTION. THE BODIES OR BODY PARTS OF AT LEAST 172 VICTIMS WERE DISCOVERED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. MANY REMAINS DISPLAYED MARKS OF TORTURE. IN ADDITION AT LEAST 37 INDIVIDUALS DISSAPEARED. AS FOR REPORTED TERRORIST INCIDENTS, THE DEPARTMENTS OF SAN VICENTE AND CABANAS WERE PARTICULARLY HARD HIT. WHILE THE CAPITAL SUFFERED A NEW WAVE OF BOMBINGS.
2. DEATHS AND DISSAPEARANCES: AT LEAST 172 PERSONS FELL VICTIM TO THE CONTINUED SPIRAL OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THIS COUNTRY.
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IN ALLITION THE DEATHS IN ACTION OF FIVE SOLDIERS WAS PUBLICLY ACKOWLEDGED IN THE PRESS. OF THE 172 VICTIMS, 21 WERE PROBABLY KILLED BY LEFTIST FORCES, WHILE THE SECURITY FORCES WERE JUDGED RESPONSIBLE FOR THREE DEATES. THE KILLERS OF THE MAJORITY, 148 IN NUMBER, REMAIN UNKNOWN. A BREACKDOWN OF THE VICTIMS BY OCCUPATION YIELDS THE FOLIOWING INFORMATION:

8 CAMPESINOS	1 OFF-DUTY SOLDIER
1 TEACHER	1 BUS FARE COLLECTOR
9 LABORERS	5 EMPLOYEES
1 BAKER	1 RADIO ANNOUNCER
1 HOUSEWIFE	2 DRIVERS
2 NIGHT WATCHMEN	3 STUDENTS
1 WAITRESS	2 STREET VENDORS
4 CIVILIAN MILITAMEN	3 MERCHANTS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY FS DATE 10/21/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1 OFF-DUTY TREASURY
POLICEMEN 124 UNKNOWN
TOTAL 172

A BREAKDOWN OF THE APPROXIMATE AGES OF THE VICTIMS PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS:

A. AGE 17 AND UNDER	7
B. AGES 18-25	43
C. AGES 26-35	15
D. AGES 36-50	10
E. AGES 51 AND OVER	1
F. UNKNOWN	96
TOTAL	172

AS A FINAL NOTE THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THE KIDNAPPING OR DISSAPEARNACE OF AFURTHER 37 PERSONS, ONE OF THSES ALLEGEDLY (BY THE FAMILY) BY THE ARMY.

3. INCIDENTS:

--ON 8/23 NEAR LAS CUEVITAS, SAN VICENTE A TRUCK CARRYING

CIVILIANS AND PATRULLEROS AS PASSENGERS WAS BOMBED BY TERRORIST. FOUR PERSONS DIED AND FIVE WERE WOUNDED IN THE ASSAULT.

--ON 8/24 IN SAN SALVADOR A MILITARY PATROL WAS ATTACKED BY TERRORIST. ONE SUBVERSIVE WAS REPORTED WOUNDED IN THE ENCOUNTER.

--ON 8/24 IN SAN SALVADOR A BOMB EXPLODED IN THE AGENCIA TROPIGAS, A VENDOR OF GAS-POWERED APPARATI, DESTROYING THE STORE AND DAMAGING OTHER BUSINESSMAN IN THE AREA.

--ON 8/24 NEAR TECOLUCA, SAN VICENTE THE "GUAJOYO" HACIENDA WAS ATTACKED BY A LARGE GROUP OF TERRORIST WHO KILIED ONE SOLDIRES AND FIVE CIVILIAN AND LEFT AND LEFT AND UNDETERMINDE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WOUNDED BEFORE WITHDRAWING.

--ON 8/24 IN NUEVO TEPITIPAN, SAN VICENTE A FORCE OF 12 PATRULLEROS WAS ATTACKED BY A GROUP OF EXTREMISTAS, ONE PATRULLERO WAS WOUNDED.

--ON 8/24 NEAR CERLO RAMIREZ, SAN VICENTE A GROUP OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WAS ATTACKED BY GUERRILAS. NO CONFIRMED REPORTS OF CASUALTIES WAS RECEIVED.

--ON 8/24 OUTSIDE SAN VICENTE GUERRILLAS ATTAMPTING TO PLANT BOMBS AND BARRICADES ON THE HIGHWAY WERE DRIVEN OFF BY SECURITY FORCES WITHOUT EITHER SIDE SUFFERING LOSS.

--ON 8/24 NEAR SUCHITOTO, STRONG ENGAGEMENTS WERE REPORTED WITH GUERRILLA FORCES. THE CLANDESTINE RADIO VENCEREMOS CLAIMED THAT SUCHITOTO WAS HELD VIRTUALLY, UNDER SIEGE.

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--ON 8/25 NEAR JIQUILISCO, USULUTAN A HACIENDA POLICE
CONVOY WAS ATTACKED BY GUERRILLAS WHO KILLED ON POLICEMAN
AND WOUNDED ANOTHER BEFORE WITHDRAWING WITHOUT LOSS.
--ON 8/25 THE HAMLETS OF VALLE LA TRINIDAD AND CASERIO EL
PORTILLO, CABANAS WERE ATTACKED BY GUERRILLAS WHO LEFT
AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF DEAD AND WOUNDED IN BOTH PLACES.
--ON 8/25 NEAR VILLA DOLORES, CABANAS A BUS WAS MACHINEGUNNED
BY SUBVERSIVES. ONE PERSON WAS KILLED AND THREE WOUNDED IN THE
ATTACK.
--ON 8/25 THE TOWN OF CANTON LA TRINIDAD WAS ATTACKED
BY GUERRILLAS WHO, ACCORDING TO NEWS ACCOUNTS, ENGAGED
IN ROBBERY AND RAPE.
--ON 8/25 NEAR THE TOWNS OF EL LIMON AND EL TORO,
CABANAS A MILITARY PATROL WAS AMBUSHED. ONE PATRULLERO
AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF TERRORIST DIED IN THE RESULTING
MELEE.
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--9, 8/26 OUTSIDE CANTON SAN EMIGDIO GUADALUPE, SAN
VICENTE A GROUP OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS ON THE WAY TO
WORK WERE ATTACKED BY EXTREMIST. TWO WORKERS DIED ON
THE WAY TO UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF WOUNDED.
--ON 8/26 IN SAN SALVADOR A BOMB DESTROYED AN ELECTRICAL
TRANSFORMER NEAR THE GOVERMENT CENTER LIVING A PORTION
OF THE CAPITAL WITHOUT POWER.
--ON 8/26 NEAR PUERTO EL TRIUNFO, USULUTAN THE "CORRAL DE
MULAS" HACIENDA WAS ATACKED BY ABOUT 50 UNIFORMED GUERRILLAS
WHO LEFT ONE DEAD AND SIX WOUNDED IN THEIR WAKE.
--ON 8/26 IN SAN MIGUEL A GASOLINE STATION WAS BOMBED
AND MACHINEGUNNED. RADIO VENCEREMOS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR

THE ACHIEVENT IN WHICH ONE ATTENDANT WAS WOUNDED.
--ON 8/26 IN THE CAPITAL SUBURBS OF SOYAPANGO A BOMB BROUGHT DOWN AN ELECTRICAL TOWER, PLUNGING A LARGE AREA OF THE CAPITAL INTO DARKNESS.
--ON8/27 THE CANTON GUALACHE, USULUATAN WAS BRIEFLY OCCUPIES BY ABOUT 100 SUBVERSIVES WHO PROCEDED TO ROB THE INHABITANTS OF MONEY AND FOOD.
--ON 8/27 A TOTAL OF TEN BOMB EXPLODED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF SAN SALVADOR CAUSING BOR HEAVY DAMAGE AND WOUNDED CASUALTIES.
--ON 8/27 AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON THE LIFE OF ALEJANDRO DUARTE, SON OF THE JUNTA PRESIDENT DUARTE. THE YOUNGER DUARTE ESCAPED UNHARMED.
--ON 8/28 IN SANTA TECLA, LA LIBERTAD SUBVERSIVES STOPPED A BUS AND COLLECTED WAR TAXES FROM THE PASSENGERS.
--ON 8/28 IN SANTA ANA TWO ELECTRICAL POST WERE DYSTROYED CUTTING POWER IN SOME AREAS.
--ON 8/28 NEAR LA PALMA, CHALATENANGO THE DISCOVERY OF SEVERAL GUERRILLA ENCAMPMENTS LED TO EXCAENGES WITH FIRE WITH GOVERMENT FORCES. NO REPORTS OF CASUALTIES.
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4. CREDIT AND BLAME. THE CLANDESTINE GUERRILLA RADIO VENCEREMOS HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FOLLOWING INCIDENTS, NONE OF WHICH WAS REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS.
--THE 8/16 BARRICADING OF THE ROAD TO SANTA CLARA, SAN VICENTE.
--ON 5#3 8/16 ATTACK ON THE CUARTEL OF THE 3RD INFANTRY BRIGADE IN SAN MIGUEL. (THIS IS AN EXCEPTION AS THE ATTACK WAS PUBLICIY REPORTED).
--THE 8/16 DESTRUCTION OF BRIGADE OUTSIDE SAN FRANCISCO GOTERA, MORAZAN
--THE 8/17 DESTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE OUTSIDE AND THE SUBEQUENT BLOCKING OF RAILROAD TRACKS NEAR TALPETATES, SAN MIGUEL
--THE COMBAT BETWEEN GOVERMENT AND GUERRILLA FORCES AT LA PITA, SAN VICENTE.
--THE 8/19 COMBAT BETWEEN GOVERMENT AND GUERRILLA FORCES AT LA LAGUNA, CHALATENANGO. RADIO VENCEREMOS CLAIMED GOVERMENT FORCES SUFFERED 10 CASUALTIES.
--THE 8/20 :9.?-5 285# &9;34.3,5 *94 8,)- 548,8$-$
(DEPARTMENT NOT HEARD)
--THE 8/20 COMBAT IN VILLA EL ROSARIO, CABANAS IN WHICH EIGHT CASUALTIES WERE ALLEGEDLY INFLICTED ON THE ARMY.
--THE 8/20 PARTIAL DESTRUCTION ON DYE LAS QUEBRADAS BRIDGE IN LA PAZ.
--THE 8/20 DETONATION OF A MINE UNDER A GOVERMENT MILITARY TRUCK AT AN UNSPECIFIED LOCATION THIRTIEN CASUALTIES WERE CLAIMED.
--THE 8/20 DESTRUCTION OFTHE ELECTRICAL TOWERS NEAR ZACA-TECCIUCA IA PAZ.

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-- THE 8/20 DAMAGE AFLICTED TC RAILROAD TRACKS AND A
POWER PLANT IN SAN VICENTE.
--THE 8/20 DOWNING OF TWO HELICOPTERS NEAR GUAZAPA
VOLCANO, SAN SALVADOR.
--THE 8/20 AMBUSH OF A MILITARY PATROL NEAR LA LAGUNA CHALATENANGO
IN WHICH 10 CASUALTIES WERE ALLEGEDLY AFFLICTED.
--THE 8/26 DESTRUCTION OF TWO ELECTRICAL TOWERS NEAR
SAN CARLOS ZELAMATE, SAN MIGUEL.
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--THE 8/27 DOWNING OF POWERLINE IN SAN SALVADOR.
--THE 8/28 AMBUSH OF A MILITARY CONVOY OUTSIYHTUSULUTAN
IN WHICH 15 SOLDIERS ALLEGEDLY BECAME CASUALTIES.
--THE 8/28 SEIZURE OF A NEIGBORHOOD IN SAN MIGUEL
DURIN WHICH A PROPAGANDA SESSION WAS HELD.
--THE 8/28 ATTACK ON A CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE OF UNSPECIFIED
FOREIGN OWNERSHIP IN SAN MIGUEL.
--THE 8/28 ATTACK ON GAS STORAGE TANKS IN SAN MIGUEL.
5. A FINAL NOTE: ON 8/24 A RADIO VENCEREMOS BROADCAST
DELIVERED GREETINGS TO THOSE AGENTS OF THE FMLN REPORTED
TO BE WORKING UNDERCOVER IN THE SALVADORAN GOVERMENT
AND SECURITY FORCES. THIS FOLLOWS BY SEVERAL WEEKS THE
EXPLOSION OF A BOMB WITHIN THE NATIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS
IN DOWTON SAN SALVADOR. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS
RADIO VENCEREMOS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR MARXIST MOLES WHO
HAD PENETRATED THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLICE.
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